



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 42 • October 19, 2007



## Central Consortium and U.S. Air Force Partnership Meeting

By Chris Christensen [cchristensen@mt.gov](mailto:cchristensen@mt.gov)

Central Consortium Project Director Cheri Kilby met with several other parties in Great Falls on Tuesday, Oct. 17 to discuss the joint build-out of radio and microwave communications sites with the U.S. Air Force (USAF). Participating in the meeting were: Kevin Bruski, Montana Dept. of Transportation; Dave Clouse and Tom Olsen, Northrop Grumman; Chris Christensen, Public Safety Services Bureau; Ray Hetherington, Wheatland County Dispatch Supervisor and IM Technical Committee member; Dave Hinds and MSgt. Michael White, U.S. Air Force; Jeff Reynolds, SI International, Inc.; and Roger Smith, Montana Highway Patrol.

The purpose of meeting was to coordinate planning of construction on shared sites in the Central Consortium and the group reviewed preliminary scopes of work on the sites. A specific focus of the meeting was to address agreements that will need to be in place. They also discussed progress on the USAF environmental assessment. Additionally, the date of the project deadline was clarified as being Dec. 2009. All participants believe the projects can be accomplished well in advance of that deadline. A healthy exchange of information occurred during the meeting, and will be continued during site walks that are scheduled for the rest of the week.

## Billings and Yellowstone County Officials Attend Policy Academy

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Four Yellowstone County and Billings City officials were selected to attend an Interoperability Policy Academy sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National League of Cities (NLC). Chris Christensen, Public Safety Services Bureau Chief, was invited to serve as a fifth member of the team. The Academy is being held Oct 18-19 in San Francisco, CA and addresses important questions related to interoperability planning at a policy level.

This two-day event helps government officials address challenges to achieving communications interoperability at both the local and state level. The agenda focuses on governance, procedures, technology, training and other issues that will assist teams of elected and appointed government officials in their planning.

NACo and NLC partnered to offer the Academy because local governments are at the forefront of the country's focus for emergency response. All expenses for Academy participants were covered through a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant. For more information about NACo, visit [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).

## Border Security Exercise Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES Exercise and Training Rep., Fred Naehrer) and the U.S. Attorney's Office (AUSA Betsy Horsman), hosted a meeting on Oct. 16 at Fort Harrison and via telecom to discuss a cross-border full-scale exercise to take place in early August 2008 along the Canadian-Montana border. A similar exercise took place in October 2003. This event will be particularly significant because the Northern Tier Interoperability Project (NTIP) will be live at the time of the exercise.

PSSB representative, Wing Spooner, was in attendance along with several other representatives including: the Montana National Guard; Montana Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS); the Montana All-Threat Intelligence Center (MATIC); Lethbridge College; the Alberta Solicitor General's intelligence program (ASSIST); the U.S. Attorney's Intelligence Officer; DHS Office of Training and Exercise in Colorado; U.S. Army North based in Albuquerque, N.M.; Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Intelligence; and other components of DES.

The August 2008 cross-border full scale exercise intends to more comprehensive than the one in 2003. PSSB will be a member of the exercise design team. The exercise will target the capacities of U.S. and Canadian entities in these areas:



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- Civilian and military intelligence, including MATIC and the Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETs) hosted by the RCMP;
- Law enforcement; Fire and Hazmat teams
- Communications, using NTIP and possibly ACU-1000's;
- Public health/hospital surge and EMS; and
- Tribal components.

We'll keep you posted on upcoming events. If you are interested in receiving information on the exercise, or in joining the exercise design team, please contact Wing Spooner or AUSA Betsy Horsman at [elizabeth.horsman@usdoj.gov](mailto:elizabeth.horsman@usdoj.gov).

## Montana APCO Conference Update

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The 2007 Montana APCO Chapter conference being held in Great Falls on Nov. 15 and 16 promises some great learning opportunities. Thursday morning begins with a keynote speaker at 8:30 am, followed by public safety awards, workshop sessions and vendor booths. A wine and cheese reception is taking place that evening at 5:30 pm. Friday's session begins at 8:00 am and continues until 5:00 pm.

Sessions will address such topics as 20-Year Dispatcher Retirement, Amber Alerts, APCO Institute, Dispatch Console Options, Encryption Standards, GIS, Health Care Explained, Hostage Situations, a Update on Montana 9-1-1, the Montana Microwave Network Design, the Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT) and Trunking in the Real World. In addition, MA/COM will have a presentation on its master controller equipment.

Please check the Montana APCO Chapter website for up-to-date information on the conference. It is: [www.mtapco.org](http://www.mtapco.org).

## Upcoming Meetings

### October 22

IM Technical Committee Face-to-Face Meeting  
Helena • 10:00 am-3:00 pm • State Capitol • Room 152

### October 24

ETIC • Glendive • 10:00 am  
Law Enforcement Center, 440 Colorado Blvd.

### October 25

Mobile Data Terminal Consortium (MDT)  
Bozeman • 10:00 am  
Best Western City Center, 507 W Main St.

### November 1

Big Sky 11 • Billings • 10:00 am  
Yellowstone County Fire Station, 2305 8th Ave N.

### November 5

*IMGC Finance Committee*  
Helena • 10:00 am – Noon • DOC Annex Conf Rm.  
*IM Governance Committee*  
Helena • Noon – 5:00 pm • DOC Annex Conf Room

### November 6

IM Project Directors Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am -3:00 pm • State Capitol

### November 7

Central Consortium (CMICC) • 10:00 am  
Great Falls • Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW

### November 7

South Central Consortium (SCMIC) • 10:00 am  
Ennis • Location to be announced

### November 14 (Note: Day of the Week is Wed., not Thurs.)

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium • 10:00 am  
Butte Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.

### November 14

Northern Tier (NTIP) Technical Committee Mtg.  
Great Falls • Location and time to be announced.

### November 14

Northern Tier (NTIP) Board of Directors • Great Falls  
Location and time to be announced.

### November 15-16

Montana Chapter APCO Conference • Great Falls  
Best Western Heritage Inn, 1700 Fox Farm Road